

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tape cartridge comprising:

a reel;

a brake member mounted at the reel so as to be reciprocally movable between a locking position for prohibiting rotation of the reel and an unlocking position for enabling rotation of the reel, the brake member including a disc portion provided at a mounting side thereof and a rim portion provided at a side of the brake member which is opposite to the mounting side thereof; and

a guidance structure capable of guiding an outer periphery of the mounting side disc portion and capable of guiding the rim portion, for controlling attitude of the brake member at least during mounting of the brake member.

2. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the guidance structure is provided at the reel.

3. The tape cartridge of claim 2, wherein the guidance structure comprises a plurality of engaging protrusions.

4. The tape cartridge of claim 3, wherein the engaging protrusions are disposed with a predetermined spacing along a predetermined circular periphery whose center is at an axis of rotation of the reel.

5. The tape cartridge of claim 3, wherein the engaging protrusions comprise tapering walls for guiding the mounting side disc portion outer periphery and the rim portion, and gear teeth for blocking rotation of the reel when the brake member is at the locking position.

6. The tape cartridge of claim 5, wherein, when the brake member is disposed at the locking position, a clearance between the rim portion and the tapering walls is smaller than a clearance between the disc portion and the tapering walls.
7. The tape cartridge of claim 5, wherein the brake member comprises a brake gear which meshes with the gear teeth when the brake member is disposed at the locking position.
8. The tape cartridge of claim 7, wherein the brake gear is formed at a mounting side face of the disc portion.
9. The tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a case which rotatably accommodates the reel.
10. The tape cartridge of claim 9, further comprising a structure for prohibiting rotation of the case relative to the brake member.
11. The tape cartridge of claim 9, wherein, when the brake member is disposed at the locking position, rotation of the case relative to the reel is prohibited.
12. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the reel comprises a tubular portion at a center thereof, and the brake member is mounted at an inner side of the tubular portion.
13. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the brake member is movable between the locking position and the unlocking position by translation in a direction of an axis of rotation of the reel.

14. The tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising an urging member which continuously urges the brake member toward the locking position.

15. The tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a release pad for causing the reciprocal movement of the brake member by transmitting force from outside the tape cartridge.